



Center for Urban Forest Research
U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

News Brief

Summer
2007

**It's been a while since you heard from us, and we've been busy!
Read on for our latest news.**

If you would like to receive our news briefs in the future, sign up [here](#).
This news brief can also be viewed online [here](#).

California Urban Forestry Greenhouse Gas Reporting Protocol

CUFR is pleased to be leading a team in the development of greenhouse gas reporting protocols for urban forests. For more information, read the [project summary](#) [PDF 77 kB] describing the project. Stay tuned for more information on this important topic in the coming months and keep up-to-date by visiting our [protocols website](#)!!

Trees and climate change

Global warming is a topic on many people's minds these days, and we would each like to do our part to make changes for the better. Are trees a solution to the challenge of climate change? Some scientists seem to be suggesting otherwise, but our research clearly demonstrates the benefits of trees, especially in cities.

Read Greg McPherson's [op-ed](#) [PDF 17 kB] in the Los Angeles Times for our take on the subject.

“Certainly we must transform the way we produce and consume energy. Doing so will require the brightest minds of science, the staunchest will of politicians, and a great deal of time, effort and money. Meanwhile, we can all plant a tree.”

For a more indepth look at the issues, read our [discussion article](#) [PDF 64 kB] in June's issue of *Arborist News*: “Urban Tree Planting and Greenhouse Gas Reductions.”

“Trees reduce carbon dioxide in the air, thereby reducing the warming ‘greenhouse’ effect of the gas, in two main ways. First, as they grow, they take carbon dioxide out of the air and transform it into roots, leaves, bark, flowers, and wood... Second, by providing shade and transpiring water, trees lower air temperature and, therefore, cut energy use, which reduces the production of carbon dioxide at the power plant.”

Million Trees LA

CUFR is proud to be a participant in Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's initiative to plant one million trees in the coming years. Our [study](#) [PDF 1.7 MB], which will soon be available as a Forest Service General Technical Report, used a computer algorithm to search the city for available planting spaces. We found plenty of room for one million trees and estimated the total benefits those trees would provide at \$1.3 to \$2 billion! For a brief summary of the project, read more [here](#) [PDF 0.5 MB].



STRATUM: New Regions, New Tree Guides, and New City Analyses

If you live in the Northeast, Interior West, Pacific Northwest, or Inland Empire, we've completed the work for the reference cities in these regions and incorporated them into STRATUM, our software tool for calculating the benefits of urban trees. To download the latest STRATUM version (3.2) or for more information on the entire i-Tree suite of tools, visit the [i-Tree](#) website.

One part of our ongoing STRATUM work is the publication of regional tree guides describing and quantifying the many benefits of trees and suggesting ways to maximize benefits through strategic planting. We are proud to announce the publication of three new tree guides as peer-reviewed Forest Service General Technical Reports: [Midwest](#), [Piedmont](#), and [Coastal Plain](#).

We've recently completed our municipal forest resource analyses of [New York City](#) [PDF 1.4MB], [Boise](#) [PDF 1.5 MB], and [Albuquerque](#) [PDF 1.8 MB]. For a quick summary of the New York study and an example of STRATUM in action, read "Maybe Only God Can Make a Tree, but Only People Can Put a Price on It" from the [New York Times](#) [PDF 450 kB] on April 18th. "It seems like a Zen koan: how much is a New York City tree worth?..."



New Research

We're excited about two new urban forestry projects in the works. For the first, together with professors, scientists and students at UC Davis, we're testing 17 new cultivars of the American elm as part of a national trial to find replacements for the beloved trees that once graced so many American cities. For more information, read our [research summary](#) [PDF 0.5 MB].

The second project also involves collaboration with UC Davis researchers, this time working with structural soils. We recently finished installation of a new, lighter kind of engineered soil that filters and stores stormwater and supports plants! In the coming months we'll be testing the new soil's capacity to clean stormwater and to see how well the trees are doing. You can read more about this project in our [research summary](#) [PDF 1.6 MB].

For more information on this and other urban forestry projects, please visit our website at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/>

Links

News Brief online:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/12/psw_cufr706_JulyNewsBrief.pdf

Greenhouse Gas Reporting Protocol project summary:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr685_UFProtocol_background.pdf

Greenhouse Gas Reporting Protocol website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/protocols.shtml>

Los Angeles Times Op-ed:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr694_LATimesOpEd.pdf

Urban Tree Planting and Greenhouse Gases discussion paper:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr684_TreesAndGHG.pdf

Complete Million Trees LA study:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr689a_MillionTreesLA_final_web.pdf

Million Trees research summary:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr666_MillionTreeSummary.pdf

i-Tree tools website:

<http://itreetools.org>

Midwest Tree Guide:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr199/

Piedmont Tree Guide:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr200/

Coastal Plain Tree Guide:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr201/

New York Municipal Forest Resource Analysis

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/2/psw_cufr687_NYC_MFRA.pdf

Boise Municipal Forest Resource Analysis

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/2/psw_cufr693_BOI_MFRA_web.pdf

Albuquerque Municipal Forest Resource Analysis

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/cufr_674_ABQ_MFRA_for_web.pdf

New York Times STRATUM story

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr691_price_of_tree.pdf

Elm Renaissance research summary:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr688_American_Elm_Renaissance.pdf

Structural Soil research summary:

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr686_UCDParkingLot.pdf
